



Barley Bulletin



Vol. 22 No. 1

Summer 2004

NBGA SUMMER MEETING REPORT

By Steve Edwardson

Executive Administrator / N.D. Barley Council

The National Barley Growers Association held its summer meeting in Washington, D. C., on June 20 and 21. The board of directors and participants discussed and acted upon a number of issues that are important barley producers. Following are a few highlights of the meeting:

- *Affordable and effective crop insurance for malting barley continues to be a concern for barley producers.* The NBGA met with the USDA Risk Management Agency to discuss changes in the malting barley crop insurance program. Of primary concern is making certain that malting barley quality factors (e.g., vomitoxin/DON) are consistent with industry standards. The NBGA has formed a Risk Management Task Force to work closely with RMA to assist in addressing producer concerns.

- *The NBGA is a member of the Alliance for Rail Competition (ARC).* This alliance was formed to address issues regarding railroad service. The ARC includes energy companies, fertilizer manufacturers and other organizations. Rising transportation costs and increased levels of rail line abandonment are of concern to grain producers and other rail service customers. The NBGA is working to assist in securing adequate rail service.

- *Appropriations for agriculture continue to be a concern now and in the future.* Following the NBGA meeting, many delegates visited their respective congressional delegations. Richard Groven and Steve Edwardson of the North Dakota Barley Council, along with NBGA president Rob Running and Minnesota Barley Growers Executive

Director Marv Zutz visited the offices of Representative Pomeroy, and Senators Dorgan and Conrad. This group also visited the office of Minnesota Senator Mark Dayton, and U. S. Representative Collin Peterson. The purpose of these visits was to keep the congressional delegations informed about issues faced by barley producers (such as crop insurance, pesticide harmonization, crop conditions and farm bill development). The NBGA and the North Dakota Barley Council maintain continuous communication with policy makers in Washington D. C.

- *The NBGA has a new web site* to help keep growers informed about issues impacting barley production. Check out this information source at www.nationalbarley.org. ■

North Dakota Grain Growers Association Environmental Tour

The NDGGA sponsored an environmental tour on June 23 and 24. This tour provided representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with an understanding of pesticide markets, applications and utilization from the perspective of growers and industry. Tour participants learned about recent advancements in aerial application technology as well as ground application technology. The group toured an aerial application service, the AGSCO Ag Depot distribution facility near Grand Forks, and also learned about new ground application technology at the Greg Daws farm near Michigan, N.D. These tours are vital to improving communications with EPA.

Edwardson Serving as NDBC Executive Administrator

Steven Edwardson was selected this spring as the new executive administrator of the North Dakota Barley Council. He succeeded Nick Sinner, who left NDBC to become executive director of the Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers Association.

Edwardson, who began his duties with NDBC in April, has extensive experience in market development, promotion, international relations, research, and administration. He also has considerable experience in the production, processing and marketing of North Dakota crops.

Edwardson holds a Master of Science degree in agricultural mechanization from North Dakota State University. He has a balanced foundation of skills in agricul-

tural economics, processing technology and crop and soil science. Throughout his career, he has developed educational and market-



Steve Edwardson

ing seminars for growers on topics ranging from crop production systems to market opportunities and perils. He has developed promotion, education and marketing programs for small grains, oilseeds and specialty crops.

As NDBC executive administrator, Edwardson plans to increase barley awareness, work to expand the barley market, encourage an increase in barley consumption, and work closely with researchers

to improve disease-resistant barley varieties in the state.

"I feel that North Dakota is well positioned to expand markets for barley," Edwardson stated upon joining the Barley Council. "The future is very exciting as customers seek to develop closer relationships with suppliers. I am confident that my professional and personal background will bring vision and expansion to the North Dakota barley industry," Edwardson remarked.

Edwardson is relocating from Grand Forks to Fargo with his wife, Diane, and their two daughters, Olivia and Megan. Prior to accepting the position with the Barley Council, he had been working in crop insurance development for Billings, Mont.-based Watts and Associates. ■

North Dakota Barley Council
505 40th St. S.W., Suite E
Fargo, ND 58103
Phone: 701-239-7200
www.ndbarley.net

CHAIRMAN

James Broten - Dazey, N.D.

VICE CHAIRMAN

Louis Arnold - Esmond, N.D.

Charles Ottem - Osnabrock, N.D.

Richard Groven - Northwood, N.D.

Wayne Narum - Bowman, N.D.

Roger Johnson - Ag Commissioner

— NDBC Staff —

Steve Edwardson

Executive Administrator

Pat Matthys

Administrative Assistant

Weston Dvorak

Barley Utilization Development
Specialist

**Minnesota Barley Research
& Promotion Council**
2601 Wheat Drive
Red Lake Falls, MN 56750
Phone: 218-253-4311

CHAIRMAN

Mike Seeger - Red Lake Falls, Minn.

VICE CHAIRMAN

Chuck Gunnerson - Ada, Minn.

Roger Dziengel - Kennedy, Minn.

Curt Knutson - Fisher, Minn.

Tom Conroy - Wheaton, Minn.

Brian Lacey - Wendell, Minn.

— MBR&PC Staff —

Marv Zutz

Executive Director

The NDBC and the MBR&PC are organizations of North Dakota and Minnesota barley growers. Funded by producer checkoff programs, the two councils work to develop a strong barley industry through marketing, research and educational programs.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

By James Broten

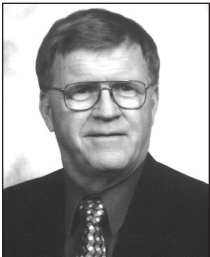
Agriculture is in a continual state of transition. Each year, the agricultural economy is affected by changes and challenges that impact each crop industry — and, ultimately, our farming operations.

Involvement in commodity organizations provides us as farmers with a unified voice in addressing production, processing, promotion, marketing and trade issues. The North Dakota Barley Council strives to represent the interests of barley producers through numerous activities.

The Council has also been in a state of transition, and we are working through a number of changes while simultaneously continuing our commitment to help keep barley as a profitable crop for North Dakota farmers. Here's a recap of some recent developments:

- Our executive administrator, Nick Sinner, left the NDBC earlier this year and is now providing his services to the Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers Association. We thank Nick for his work with the Barley Council, and we wish the very best for Nick as he continues to work for the betterment of producers.

- Our communication specialist, Melissa Schwengler, has also departed the Barley Council due to her husband receiving a job transfer to Georgia. Likewise, we thank Melissa for her support in promoting the Barley Council, and we wish her well in her new endeavors.



James Broten

- On April 19, Steve Edwardson began his service as the new executive administrator for the North Dakota Barley Council. Steve has a well-rounded background in crop science, farm management and market promotion. We welcome Steve to the Council, and we look forward to working with him to enhance barley production and promotion.

- The Barley Council is moving forward with the development of the Institute of Malting Barley Sciences at NDSU. This center will be a vital component of the North Dakota barley industry as it expands education and utilization of North Dakota barley.

- The Council has provided funding to the North Dakota Dairy Coalition to assist in securing a dairy development specialist. Dairy is an important industry in North Dakota, and barley is well positioned to be a prominent component of dairy rations due to its beneficial impact on dairy product quality.

Barley acres are reported down about 12% in North Dakota this year compared to 2003. This decline could reach 20% to 25% due to prevented planting, flooding and drought conditions.

Strong prices in corn and oilseeds also impacted this decline. The Barley Council continues to inform buyers that barley prices must be competitive with other crops for farmers to continue to raise barley. Barley is an important rotational crop in North Dakota. Your Barley Council continues to make certain that barley has a voice in the ever-changing world of agriculture. ■

The Barley Council is moving forward with the development of the Institute of Malting Barley Sciences at NDSU.

EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

By Steve Edwardson

Relationship Development. These two words summarize the key requirement for enhancing and expanding North Dakota barley utilization. As the executive administrator of the North Dakota Barley Council, it is my goal to work in harmony with the Council, growers, researchers, industry and policy makers to develop strong relationships that will have a positive impact on North Dakota barley production.

As a newcomer to the North Dakota Barley Council, my initial focus has been to develop a comprehensive understanding of the issues facing the barley sector. In order to accomplish this goal, I have been in contact with many people and entities, namely:

NDSU — I have been meeting with researchers and administrators at NDSU to strengthen relationships and learn about the involvement of NDSU in the barley industry. Improving soil fertility, managing fusarium head blight (scab), utilizing barley in livestock rations, and developing new barley varieties are only the beginning of the many research areas that your Barley Council seeks to strengthen in its relationship with NDSU.

Industry — I have also met with key professionals in the malting industry to further understand the issues faced by malt manufacturers, as well as to understand the current status and future direction of malting technology and its impact on produc-



Steve Edwardson

ers. Of primary importance is consistency in quality assurance analysis of malting variety. Both producers and industry are working to further refine the quality assurance process.

Crop Insurance — With a background in crop insurance product development and underwriting, I will assist in enhancing insurance products for barley producers. USDA-RMA continues as a dominant factor in crop insurance, yet some private companies are also working to develop insurance products for malting barley. I will continue to develop relationships and offer assistance in the development of barley crop insurance.

Promotion — Barley (both feed and malting) must be continually promoted in the domestic and international markets. Trade shows, brochures and web sites are mechanisms to educate and promote barley utilization. I will utilize my experience in the food industry to further promote North Dakota barley.

Producers — Profitable barley production requires strict attention to crop management practices and market conditions. I look forward to working closely with barley producers to expand barley acreage and help keep barley as a profitable crop enterprise.

It is a privilege to serve as executive administrator for the North Dakota Barley Council. I thank the Council for this opportunity, and I look forward to working with growers, processors, marketers, researchers and policy makers for the enhancement of barley production, processing and marketing.

~ Barley Bits ~

NEWS ON BARLEY PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, MARKETS & TRADE

Dimilin — The North Dakota Barley Council wrote a letter of support for securing a Section 18 crisis exemption for the application of dimilin on barley for grasshopper control. Dimilin is much more environmentally friendly to non-target insects.

NDAWN for Barley Management — The North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network (NDAWN) provides farmers with a number of tools to assist in crop management. In 2004, the NDAWN system added a growing degree day staging model for barley production. This model accurately predicts leaf stages of barley, which assists in timing the application of herbicides, insecticides and fungicides. The NDAWN internet site is easy to use. Be sure to visit NDAWN at <http://ndawn.ndsu.nodak.edu/index.html>. There's also a model for forecasting and managing scab. Check out NDAWN for your crop management needs.

Promotion — The National Barley Foods Council (NBFC) works to promote barley utilization in human food applications. Barley has many beneficial characteristics (beta glucans, magnesium, fiber, etc.) that positively impact human health. The North Dakota Barley Council continues to support education and promotion of barley through the NBFC.

International Trade — The U. S. Grains Council has indicated that Libya has tendered for 70,000 metric tons of feed barley. Libya has not imported barley for the past two decades. This could be a positive step to regaining export market share for barley.

MCPA Most Popular Herbicide — The North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service reports that MCPA was the most popular herbicide applied to barley in 2003. MCPA was applied to 63% of the state's barley acres last year. Other popular products for use on barley were fenoxypop (Puma), bromoxynil (Buctril) and 2,4-D.

Crop Insurance — The North Dakota Barley Council is represented on the interstate Risk Management Task Force (RMTF) that is collectively working to improve crop insurance coverage for barley. The RMTF is working with USDA-RMA to address numerous grower concerns (e.g., vomitoxin testing, protein requirements, coverage levels). As the largest barley producing state, the interests of North Dakota growers will be kept at the forefront of RMA. The North Dakota Barley Council continues to provide a voice for improved crop insurance.

Pesticide Harmonization

By Louis Arnold / Vice Chairman / North Dakota Barley Council

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was signed back in the early 1990s. Once signed, the governments of the United States, Canada and Mexico decided there should be a joint effort among all three countries to harmonize agricultural chemicals.

This process has continued for about eight years. Up until this past year, there wasn't much effort toward its progress because there was a 10-year timeline. Like all bureaucrats, they didn't accomplish very much in the first years. There has been some progress made in the last one to two years with the EPA of the U. S. and PMRA of Canada. They have been trying to refine some of the regulations regarding registration of chemicals that are duplicated in each country.

I think there is the idea out there in farm country that chemical harmonization is about price. Price is not the issue; rather, harmonizing the regulations in all three countries is the core concern. For instance, a chemical released for use

on barley should carry the same label in all three countries. Therefore, a barley producer could purchase the chemical at the cheapest location. Hopefully, this would take care of the price issue. This is a simple answer to what chemical harmonization was to accomplish. In my view, if the protection agencies would develop a unified set of regulations, it would probably lower the cost of chemicals to farmers.

As stated, this was to be an effort to harmonize farm chemicals when initiated. At the last meeting I attended, other groups were encouraged to get on board. Examples are the companies producing the sanitary chemicals used in cleaning of hotels, office buildings, etc. I wasn't in favor of this because the agencies have more than enough to do just with farm chemicals. The North Dakota Barley Council has been involved in this effort, and I feel that it's important for our growers to be informed. I also believe that other grower groups need to get more involved in this effort.

Harmonizing the regulations in all three NAFTA countries is the core concern.

UPCOMING EVENTS

County Rep Meeting
Carrington, N.D.
July 12

Mark your calendars to attend the N.D. Barley Council county representative meeting in Carrington on Monday, July 12. Registration begins at 1:00 p.m. We will tour a feedlot at the Stu Richter farm near New Rockford. We will also tour the feed plant at the NDSU R/E Center at Carrington. Dr. Rich Horsley, Dr. Jerry Franckowiak and other researchers will provide a plot tour and discussion on advances in barley variety development and barley management. Supper will follow the meeting.

Trade Teams

The North Dakota Barley Council will host the following-trade teams this summer in cooperation with the U.S. Grains Council:
Taiwanese Team / July 13
Japanese Team / August 1-3
Mexican Team / August 8-10
In a competitive global marketplace, it is absolutely critical to continue to promote the utilization of North Dakota's high quality barley in both livestock and brewing.

National Barley Growers Assn. Summer Meeting
Washington, D.C.
June 20 & 21

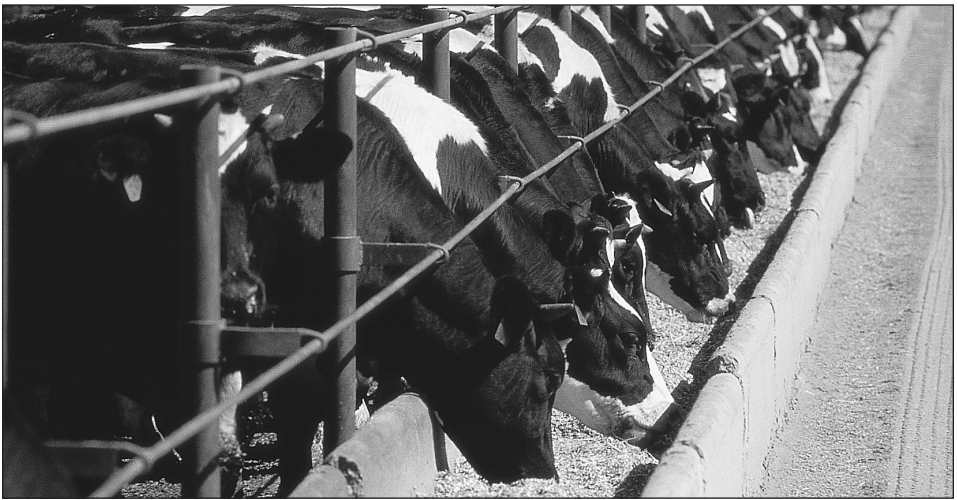
NDSU Research Center Field Days
Hettinger — July 6
Dickinson — July 7
Williston — July 8
Casselton — July 12
Carrington — July 13
Minot — July 14
Langdon — July 15

USDA-ARS 'Friends & Neighbors Day'
Mandan
July 22

U.S. Grains Council 44th Annual Delegates Meeting
Montreal, Quebec
July 25-28

THINK FEED BARLEY!

By Weston Dvorak, N.D. Barley Council
Barley Utilization Development Specialist



One thing is constant in agriculture, and that is the continual change and uncertainty that surrounds the decisions a producer has to make. Agriculture is vibrant, resilient and offers us promise of great personal reward.

Feed barley, one of the world's oldest cultivated crops, is a model for this theory of agriculture. Progress in feed barley variety development will allow feed barley to become more economical for farmers and livestock feeders. Genetic selection on six-row barley lines that have a considerable (approximately 20%) yield advantage compared to malt-ing varieties is one of the many issues the North Dakota Barley Council is working on to become reality.

Another area of significant promise is the development of a new two-row feed barley line that has an increased (20% larger than Conlon) kernel size. This new two-row feed barley variety should be released for producers to raise within in the next year or two. The larger kernel size could affect the energy value of this new variety of barley compared to traditional feed barley, which could give barley an even greater advantage in the livestock feeding industry.

Change is not a stranger to the live-stock industry, either. When homestead-ers settled in our region of the world, ranchers who wanted to make a living raising livestock needed three essential environmental factors before they staked a claim to a piece of ground: (1) avail-

ability of feed or forage, (2) availability of water and (3) shelter for protection. The majority of livestock settlers found all three of these factors in valleys, wooded draws and locations within close proximity of a natural spring, river, creek or watering hole.

We all know that. So why am I dis-cussing this?

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDH) is updating its 1989 regu-lations addressing water quality on ani-mal feeding operations. The NDDH plans on having it proposed rule changes in place by July 1, 2004.

Why is the NDDH changing its rules and regulations? The NDDH has to change its rules and regulations in order to comply with the latest Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations that were revised as of January 2003. An animal feeding operation (AFO) is defined as a lot or facility where the fol-lowing conditions are met: animals have been, are, or will be stabled or confined and fed or maintained for a total of 45 days (does not have to be consecutive) or more in any 12-month period; and crops, vegetation, forage growth or

*All livestock operators who
are not in 'environmental'
compliance need to be
by June 2008 — four
years from now.*

postharvest residues are not sustained in the normal growing season over any por-tion of the lot or facility.

The NDDH has subclassified this def-inition as **Large** concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO)/AFO (1,000 or more beef cattle), a **Medium** CAFO/AFO (300-999 beef cattle) or **Small** CAFO/AFO (299 or less beef cat-tle). All operations that are considered a Large CAFO/AFO are required to obtain a federal permit for operation. Medium and Small CAFO/AFOs that discharge pollutants into waters of the state or are with in mile of surface water will need a state permit.

In addition to obtaining a permit, the livestock operator will be required to have a comprehensive manure manage-ment plan. The manure management plan requires soil and manure sampling, climate conditions when manure is applied, and a plan of action for field application on a rotational basis. The plan records will have to be compiled for three years in case the NDDH asks to view the manure management history. All producers who are not in "environ-mental" compliance need to be by June 2008 — four years from now.

If a livestock producer believes that this change in rules and regulations by the NDDH is not going to affect him or his neighbors, he had better start taking a closer look at their operations. When the NDDH was asked how many live-stock producers would be affected by these rule changes, they stated around 4,000 to 6,000 out of the estimated 12,000 livestock producers within North Dakota. The North Dakota Stockman's Association believes the number actually will be considerably more. The number of producers that will be affected will be high, to say the least.

I encourage any producer who is curious about the new rules by NDDH to get involved as soon as possible. If you wish to learn more about this topic, call Scott Ressler at the N.D. Stockman's Association (701-223-2522) or me.

I hope everyone had a quick, safe spring's field work and all your calves are healthy and basking in the warm sun. For additional information regarding the best use of your feedstuffs and how to find or incorporate feed barley into your livestock rations, please feel free to contact me at 701-239-7200.

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FARGO, ND
PERMIT NO. 1848

North Dakota Barley Council
505 40th St SW, Suite E
Fargo, ND 58103
Internet: www.ndbarley.net